

**Sanctuary Messages Series**  
**Lesson 14: Urim and Thummim**  
**Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor**

**Review:** The High Priest wore the ephod (girdle) of fine twine linen of gold, blue, purple and red. It was placed over the head of the High Priest. The two shoulder pieces joined at the two edges of the ephod. On the shoulder the ephod were two engraved stones inserted into sockets on each shoulder. A total of twelve tribes were engraved in each stone. There were six on the right and six on the left. gold chain that connected to gold rings.

Stones engraved with the names of the children of Israel are a representation of the kingdom of God, His government. This points to the pre-gospel. According to Isaiah 9:6, "The government shall be upon His shoulders."

At the chest of the ephod was the breastplate that was placed on top of it. The breastplate were twelve precious stones inside golden sockets. There were four rows with three stones per row. Engraved on each stone was a name of a tribe of Israel. Not only is the everlasting government on the shoulders of Christ, but every one who is part of His kingdom in close to His heart. Each stone was a unique precious jewel of variety that not only points to the diversity of God's kingdom but reveals how precious you and I are in the eyes of Jesus.

**What were two additional stones that were on the left side and right side of the breastplate on the High Priest?**

**Exodus 28:30**

30 And thou shalt put in (upon) the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.

**Leviticus 8:8**

8 And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.

**Urim (Hebrew) = "lights" [Briggs, Driver, and Brown Hebrew Dictionary.**

**BDB Definition:**

**Thummim = "perfection"**

- **The Urim and Thummim were two large stones on each side of the breastplate..**
- **The High Priest used the Urim and Thummim to determine the will and decisions that were delivered directly from God.**

- **Urim (lights) was on the right side of the breastplate and Thummim was on the left side of the breastplate.**

“At the right and left of the breastplate were two large stones of great brilliancy. These were known as the Urim and Thummim. By them the will of God was made known through the high priest. When questions were brought for decision before the Lord, a halo of light encircling the precious stone at the right was a token of the divine consent or approval, while a cloud shadowing the stone at the left was an evidence of denial or disapprobation. {Ellen White, Patriarch and Prophets, 351.2}

When the light encircled the Urim, it was a token of God's of approval. We God did not approve He covered the Thummim with a cloud. In other words, in Urim meant yes and Thummim meant no.

**When Saul totally rebelled against God as king, he no longer received the Urim.**

### **1 Samuel 28:6**

6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

**Joshua was given Urim of judgment from the High Priest Eleazer.**

### **Numbers 27:18-21**

18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom *is* the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;

19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.

20 And thou shalt put *some* of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.

21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask *counsel* for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, *both* he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

As Israel's new leader, it was quite evident that Joshua would used Urim on many occasions.

**What does Moses say to the Levites in giving His final blessings to the Israelites on the wilderness?**

### Deuteronomy 33:8

8 And of Levi he said, *Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be* with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, *and with* whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah;

**In Nehemiah there were some from the priest hood who were unable to show or prove their genealogy had to used Urim and Thummim from the High Priest.**

**Nehemiah 7:5-6, 63 - 65**

5 And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein,

6 These *are* the children of the province, that went up out of the captivity, of those that had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and came again to Jerusalem and to Judah, every one unto his city;

63 And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, which took *one* of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite to wife, and was called after their name.

64 These sought their register *among* those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.

65 And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood *up* a priest with Urim and Thummim.

**David used Urim and Thummim on the ephod when he had to war against Saul.**

**1 Samuel 23:9-12**

9 And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod (Urim and Thummim).

10 Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake.

11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down.

12 Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver *thee* up.

Urim and Thummim was God's direct communication to the children of Israel through the High Priest. They had no excuse of their rebellion against God.

**Even though we do not have the ephod with Urim and Thummin, we can go directly to God through prayer. There is power in our prayers with request and thanksgiving to God.**

**Philippians 4:6**

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Supplication (Greek) = deēsis [*deh'-ay-sis*], *petition*: - prayer, request]

### **Ephesians 6:18**

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

### **Psalms 6:9**

9 The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.

### **Luke 21:36**

36 *Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

### **Luke 18:1**

1 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

### **Ephesians 6:18**

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

### **Romans 12:12**

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

“Shall all our devotional exercises consist in asking and receiving? Shall we be always thinking of our wants and never of the benefits we receive? Shall we be recipients of His mercies and never express our gratitude to God, never praise Him for what He has done for us? We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the loving-kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer. We would abound more and more in the love of God and have more bestowed to praise Him for. You who complain that God does not hear your prayers, change your present order and mingle praise with your petitions. When you consider His goodness and mercies you will find that He will consider your wants.

Pray, pray earnestly and without ceasing, but do not forget to praise. It becomes every child of God to vindicate His character. You can magnify the Lord; you can show the power of sustaining grace. “ {5T 317.1}